

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-5 and 9-10, drawn to a neutral phenol oxidase and a dye composition comprising neutral phenol oxidase;

Group II, claims 6-7, drawn to methods of making neutral phenol oxidase;

Group III, claim 8, drawn to an anti-neutral phenol oxidase antibody; and

Group IV, claim 11, drawn to a method of using a dye composition comprising dye and neutral phenol oxidase.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Group I, Claims 1-5 and 9-10. Applicants remind the Examiner's that upon allowance of the product claims the withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claims should be rejoined.

Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner indicates that the generic claim(s) include the following species: Phenol oxidases I, II and III. The Examiner requires Applicants to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. In reply, Applicants elect a neutral phenol oxidase having the properties (3) – (7) as recited in claim 2. All claims read upon the elected species.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner, Registration No. 32,181 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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